

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are amended. Claim 14 is newly added. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendment to Claims 1, 6, and 7 can be found at numbered paragraph [0050] of the published application, for example. Support for the amendment to Claim 2 can be found in original Claim 1 as Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form. Support for newly added Claim 14 can be found in numbered paragraph [0049] and in Fig. 1 of the published application, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kenmochi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,413, herein “Kenmochi”). Claim 2 was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Claims 11-13 were not specifically addressed.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 2 recites allowable subject matter. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants further note that none of Claims 11-13 were addressed in the outstanding Office Action, either in the Office Action Summary or in the Detailed Action section. Accordingly, Applicants presume Claims 11-13 to be allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that if a rejection of Claims 11-13 is made in the next Office Action, the next Office Action may not be made final.¹

¹ See 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 stating that the reasons for any adverse action or objection will be stated in the Office Action and such information or references will be given as may be useful in aiding the Applicant.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-10 as anticipated by Kenmochi, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response. As Claim 3 is canceled, the rejection of this Claim is moot.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites:

A cleaning sheet adapted to be attached to a head of a cleaning tool and having a wiping portion adapted to be disposed on a lower side of the head,

the wiping portion, in the state attached to the head, having a plurality of tacky recesses, at least a portion of each of which is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, open to at least one direction selected from the directions to the front, the rear, the left, and the right of the head and having a pointed or curved shape projecting in the at least one direction between borders of adjacent two of the recesses, the borders being along the at least one direction.

Accordingly, at least a portion of each recess is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive.

In contrast, Kenmochi describes a wiping surface with recesses (α) formed along the boundaries (Ca) and (Cb). The purpose of the recesses (α) is to use more of the surface area of the wiping region (12) of the cleaning sheet of Kenmochi. Kenmochi states:

Since the recesses (or the thin portions) α are formed along the boundaries Ca and Cb, moreover, they can effectively trap relatively large pieces of dust on the surface to be cleaned when the cleaning sheet 1 attached to the plate 21 is moved in the directions X1 and X2 along the surface to be cleaned. Furthermore, since fine dust particles on the surface to be cleaned are also trapped in the recesses α and introduced into the central portion of the wiping region 12, the fine dust particles are readily collected by the bulky portion 7. In contrast to the prior art, this prevents the dust from being collected only by the side portions of the wiping region 12. As a result, the wiping operation can be performed by making effective use of the whole area of the wiping region 12.²

Thus, the recesses (α) create a larger surface area for the wiping region (12).

² Kenmochi, col. 5, lines 37-50 (emphasis added).

The recesses (α) are devoid of any pressure sensitive adhesive. Rather, to the extent that Kenmochi adds any agent to the recesses (α), Kenmochi adds an oily agent, not a pressure sensitive adhesive. Kenmochi states:

Further, the cleaning sheet of the invention is preferably impregnated with an oily agent for adsorbing fine dust particles easily. This oily agent is exemplified by a mineral oil such as paraffins, a synthetic oil such as polyolefins, a silicone oil or a surface active agent. Further, the wiping region 12 may be impregnated with the oily agent only at the bulky portion 7 except for the recesses α . In this case, relatively large pieces of dust can be trapped at the recesses α whereas fine dust particles can be held by the bulky portion impregnated with the oily agent.

Moreover, the cleaning sheet of the invention can be impregnated with not only the above-specified oily agents but also an agent such as a deodorizer, a humectant or an anti-fungus agent.³

Thus, Kenmochi does not add a pressure sensitive adhesive to the recesses (α). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kenmochi for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 and newly added dependent Claim 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2, 4, and 5 and 14 patentably distinguish over Kenmochi for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1.

Amended Claims 6 and 7 each recite recesses with a portion coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive. Accordingly, as Kenmochi is devoid of a recess or recesses coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 6 and 7 patentably distinguish over Kenmochi for at least the reasons discussed above.

³ Kenmochi, col. 6, line 62 – col. 7, line 9.

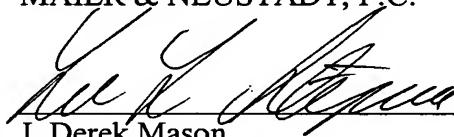
Claims 8-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-13 patentably distinguish over Kenmochi for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 7 does.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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